The Orthodox Herald

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THE TEN STEPS (III)

It is interesting that there are ten weeks between Zaccheus Sunday and Palm Sunday. Each of these Sundays teaches us something different and is a natural progression in our path to the Holy Resurrection. We have already noted the first seven steps:

1. Set out on a new path.
2. Need for self evaluation.
3. Realize we are sinners and we are sorry.
4. Fear of the judgment of Christ.
5. Ask for forgiveness of those we have offended.
6. Be vigilant.
7. Get moving, don't delay.

On April 7, which is called Cross Sunday, we read from Hebrews 4:14-5:6 and Mark 8:34-9:1. To keep us from getting depressed and letting us know that we should not lose sight of the Resurrection, now in mid-Lent the Church gives us the sight of the Cross decorated in splendor with flowers. At vigil matins, the glad Easter canon is sung. Instead of Holy God, Holy Mighty" we sing "Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection, we glorify."

We might say that the eighth step is: Be grateful. There is hope.

April 14 is dedicated to St. John Climacus, who is also called St. John of the Ladder. On this Sunday we read from Hebrews 6:13-20 and Mark 9:17-31. St. John wrote the book The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The ninth step is "Don't be too confident." Satan is always around.

April 21 is dedicated to Mary of Egypt. The readings are Hebrews 9:11-14, Mark 10:32-45. Mary was a great sinner. She was saved. This 10th step teaches us that if we are truly repentant, no matter how badly we have sinned. "There is hope for us." We can be saved.

April 28 is Palm Sunday. It is not considered a part of Great Lent. It stands

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O Lord, help me not to want
to have my own way all the time.
Help me to love others.
Keep me from being jealous,
and help me to know when I am wrong.
For You are blessed unto ages of ages.
Amen.

(This prayer for children was patterned after the Prayer of St. Ephraim, which is used by Orthodox Christians during Lent.)

LAUGHTER IN OUR SOUL

The fourth Sunday of Great Lent (April 14th this year) is dedicated to St. John Climacus. He is also sometimes called St. John of the Ladder, after a book which he wrote. He is also commemorated on March 30/April 12.

He wrote: "God does not insist or desire that we should mourn in agony of heart; rather it is His wish that out of love for Him we should rejoice with laughter in our soul. Take away sin, and tears become superfluous, where there is no bruise, no ointment is required."

It sometimes seems that life in Christ is difficult. There are trials and difficulties to go through and many crosses to bear. We are called upon to forgive those who wrong us just as Jesus forgives us all from His throne upon the Cross.

At the very heart of every pain the follower of Jesus must endure there is, nevertheless, a pocket of pure joy, which bubbles out unexpectedly and surprisingly in the form of praise and laughter, even when things seem most bleak. It cannot be otherwise for every Christian lives with, in and by the Spirit of God Who is the Source of light and joy.

Fr. Ihor Kutash, PhD

* * * * * *

The act of cleansing the vessels by the priest after Holy Communion is called the Ablutions.

BEARING OUR CROSS

Too often we hear the word: "Why did He allow it?" But we should bear in mind that God's ways are not always man's ways; and although God has given us the ability to choose, we still find a way to blame Him for the imperfections that plague our lives and those around us.

My oldest sister, Anna Marie, was the first for everything: school, driving, college and life. She is 53 years old. She is the pillar of my life and an example of God's plan for man and, in return, our struggle to meet His challenges to accept, lead and not fall. She is the light in the distance that I try to reach, but still can't.

It has been said that truth is more alluring than fiction. Nearing the end of my college years, I observed a young lady in a wheelchair coming in the gym to be lowered into the pool to exercise. Her name was Mary. From a distance, she was pleasant and polite. It wasn't until later did I come to admire and think of the similarities that she and my sister Anna Marie had. Through inquiry I found that she was a world class runner in high school and ran in the Boston Marathon. I wondered what could have gone wrong to warrant a fate such as this. I soon learned. Mary had an eating disorder, which no one knew about. It was so severe she tried twice to commit suicide. On her second attempt, on a cold, dark night in the winter, she nearly succeeded by jumping off a bridge into the waters of the Susquehanna. However, faith would not let that happen. She landed on a patch of ice and broke her back, putting her into the state she is in today. Stripped of the impurities of selfishness and class runner status, Mary found God. Through her years of torment and through this tragic turn of events, the greatest gift she had was her life and God.

I finally had the opportunity to speak

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News CHRONOLOGY

APRIL 2002

DIED: **Fr. Dimitry Kudrikoff** in Port St. Lucie, FL. Retired. He was pastor of SS Peter and Paul Church in Scranton, PA for over 40 years.

Prof. John D. Ressetar, retired, in Cleveland, OH. He was a "statny" choir director. In St. Michael's Church for over 40 years.

Both were military veterans and rarely equalled in their capacities and dedication.

BETWEEN JANUARY 23 and 25, two Russian Orthodox priests, a four-man choir, an architect and a businessman spent several hours at Bellingshausen station on King George Island in the Antarctic Peninsula. They held a panahida (memorial service) for the 62 Russian Orthodox, who have died on Antarctica, planted a large wooden cross and blessed the land on which the future St. Nicholas Church will sit. Architect Anisiforov said the church will resemble a lighthouse soaring 30 feet high. It will measure 30 by 12 feet and will be designed for its ability to withstand fierce winds. The church will be assembled in Siberia, disassembled, and shipped in a container on a Russian cargo ship to Bellingshausen. It will be made of wood and be situated next to the 25-person Russian government scientific station. A full-time priest will be assigned.

A ZINE FOR YOUNG ADULTS can be found at youth @oca.org. It offers an Orthodox point of view about issues in the church affecting high school and college students and young adults.

THERE HAS BEEN A SHARP DECLINE in free public service time once provided by radio and television stations. It is hard to even buy time for religious programming.

THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE to SS Mary and Martha Monastery, PO Box 70, Wagener, SC 29164 will be held on Saturday, May 18.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of the Blessing of the Metropolia Center Property of the Ukraine Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, NJ is set for 28 September.

AN ANCIENT MONASTERY, founded by Emperor Constantine in 330, was one of the richest in the Byzantine Empire. It has recently been recovered by archaeologists in the Perperikon region of southern Bulgaria. Many valuable artifacts have been uncovered in the digs, including the official seal of Constantine IX Monomak (1042-1055), which was used to authenticate gifts of land and property. One-hundred-twenty people were employed in the digs. Also found was a matrix in black onyx of the monastery's seal. The superior wore it as a pendant. A perfectly conserved altar from 1000 years ago was found in a church and has been reconsecrated so that services can be conducted there from time to time.

PRIESTS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS interested in joining the Orthodox Pastoral Emergency Counseling Network are asked to contact Robert Pianka, director of IOCC's Program, at 410-243-9820 or Ivan Bojanic, NY coordinator, at 212-963-5724. The purpose of the group is to form a national Orthodox Emergency Response Network, which will be able to address the spiritual and psychological needs of victims of disasters.

THE ORTHODOX PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM was not granted permission by the Israel authorities to travel to Italy for the Day of Prayer for Peace held in late January.

HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE WESTERN MISSIONARIES came to China, the Orthodox faith was brought there by Russian captives in 1685. The Chinese government recognized it as a religious entity in 1864. It was suppressed by the communists and now there is only one known functioning parish, the Church of the Protection of the Holy Virgin in Harbin, which has dwindled to 18 members. However, recently when Easter services were allowed, over 400 people attended. In June 1900, over 222 men, women and children were killed during the Boxer rebellion. An icon memorializes these 222 martyrs, 190 of them by name. They were killed because of their faith. Their memory is celebrated on June 11/24 on the Church Calendar.

A PRIMARY ORTHODOX CHARTER SCHOOL will begin operating this fall in the Cleveland, OH area. For info call Kate Zolikoff at 216-383-8987 or www.ocs-neo.org

CONDITIONS IN AN ORPHANAGE in Zaluchya, Sniatyn Region near Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine have improved. Over $40,000 has been raised by the UCC of USA, PO Box 495, Bound Brook, NJ 08880 to help the 127 severely disabled children affected by the Chernobyl disaster. A new Fund Drive is now in progress. The need is an on-going one.

THE VATICAN is starting the world's biggest inventory of artistic and historic objects. It will take over two years to identify and catalog all of its holdings from ancient papal carriages to contemporary mosaics.

THE OCNS, ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE WEBSITES in the U.S. with an average of $1.4 million hits per year, has been donated to Orthodox Christian Laity, Inc. (OCL). The donated shares are appraised at $113,000. The OCL organization feels that the Orthodox Church today confronts a growing agenda of complex issues and that the laity need to better understand its canonical role within the life of the Church. It endeavors to speak out on issues of concern to all Orthodox. The website is www.ocl.org or e-mail ocladm@ocl.org.

(Continued from front page)
THE TEN STEPS (III)

by itself. We read from Phil. 4:4-9, John 12:1-18. The service on this Sunday reverts to the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom from St. Basil's, which we have been praying during the Great Lent. The antiphons for this Sunday are taken from Psalms 116 and 118. These are Psalms of Thanksgiving and so beautiful – read them! Here are some of the verses – "I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication. He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. I suffered distress and anguish, then I called upon the name of the Lord. What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me? O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!"

(Continued from front page)
BEARING OUR CROSS

with Mary, and all our conversations centered around life, God and helping others. She never questioned "why" and the gentleness and compassion with which she spoke was an example to me.

Anyone can read this and say it is a tragedy, but the truth of the story lies not in the physical appearance of the human body, but in the mind, the heart and the soul. The reason why I tell you all of this is because the truth of the story and why it has affected me in such a way is because my sister Anna Marie has had MS since she was 24. She had been a teacher and through the years, I watched her slowly lose the ability to drive, walk and teach. Through it all, I had another Mary right in my own family. My sister was and still is a shining example of how life can go on and the choices we make to either hate and despise the world or grasp it, embrace it and teach and lead through the life of God, always looking for the positive in life and inspiring others who think their lives are so miserable.

Life is filled with many bumps and curves and our lives are spent reacting and acting to them. It is our cross in life to bear all that comes our way as Jesus did and expects us to. It can never be our appearance, but our actions which led us to inspiring, teaching and, ultimately, carrying that cross through our lives, in other lives we touch and, finally, into eternity.

John Martinelli

LIFE AS OFFERING

In the famous Ely Cathedral of England there are some old carved stone pillars which are so close to a wall that they can be seen only from one side. But if you reach your hand around to the back side you will find that they are as perfectly carved on the side which cannot be seen as on the side which is visible. It would have been quite possible for the workman who carved the stone to have "got by," as we say, with much less care, effort and struggle if he had paid less attention to the side which would never be noticed. But this pillar was something offered to God, and it had to be pleasing in His sight!

In life, as in a cathedral, there are necessary forms of work that will never be given much notice or recognition. Indeed, there will be many hours of unknown drudgery and monotony behind the achievement. When life is lived as a daily offering to God, it is unimportant what men see or what they say; the important thing is that the work, be it large or small, is pleasing to God.

God does not expect of any of us more than He has made us capable of doing, but on the other hand He is never satisfied with any work which He knows is less than our full potential.

Some think that only prayer and worship and other activities directly related to the Church are the offerings God asks us to make. But holy offerings can be made by the student in his classroom, by the mother in the daily round of housework, by the businessman in his office, or by two people who have published **The Orthodox Herald** for fifty years, keeping the story of the Eli Cathedral foremost. Their life has been an offering.

* * * * * *

Faith is the Christian's foundation, hope is his anchor, death is his harbor, Christ is his pilot, and heaven is his country.

DON'T NEGLECT

During April, those on the Julian (Old) Calendar will celebrate the Holy Day of Annunciation on the 7th and St. George's Day on May 6. Those on the Gregorian (New) Calendar will celebrate St. George's Day on April 23.

No matter which calendar you observe, on the evening of the feast note that Vespers is celebrated so that even those who must work during the day can participate in the life of the Church. For those who can attend both, you should! Your spiritual life will be made much richer. We should struggle to participate in the life of the Church to the fullest and take advantage of everything which is offered.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who made sacrifices in case any of his children had sinned?
2. Which epistle advises: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord?"
3. According to Malachi, who will come to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers?
4. Who did Paul advise that a bishop must be able to control his own children?
5. In which Gospel did Jesus predict that children rebelling against their parents would be a sign of the end times?
6. Which of the Ten Commandments states that children will be punished for their parents' sins?
7. Which Gospel does not mention the little children coming to Jesus?

ANSWERS:
1. Job (1:5)
2. Ephesians (6:1)
3. Elijah (Malachi 4:6)
4. Timothy (1 Timothy 3:4)
5. Mark (13:12)
6. The second (against graven images) (Exodus 20:4)
7. John

NOT A SMITH AMONG THEM

In the Bible there are over 30 Zachariahs, with Azariah a runner-up at nearly 30. Third place goes to Meshullam, of which there are over 20. These are the most common names in the Bible.

NOTES ON OUR 50TH

With this issue we complete our 50th year of publishing. In checking, we note that we have prepared 599 issues of the paper. We are one short of 600 because one year we ran a double issue in the summer.

This month we have several names to add to the subscribers who have been with us all these years. Thank you. Theodore Cramer, Anna Julylia, Annie Guba, Steve Dorko, Arnold Katko and Valentina Mikulich.

We also share several letters with you.

"I truly enjoy each issue of "The Orthodox Herald". I have saved every one and have them in notebooks. My collection also includes my mother's. You do such a wonderful job publishing the paper. The ethnic chuckle is also enjoyed. I also love the recipes and make a lot of them. May God bless you both for your dedication to the wonderful contribution you are making to enrich the lives of others.

Helen Allen

"We hope and pray you and those responsible for this informational publication will continue forever. Thank you for all the joy and happiness the Herald brings into our lives."

George Chwan, Jr.

"I received the tail end of my mom's sub. when she passed away. I enjoy your down-to-earth publication. I particularly appreciate how you honor and preserve the spirituality and culture our forefathers brought from the Carpathian region. I love Ethnic Chuckle. Keep on doing what you're doing!

Steve Holochuck

I send you my sincerest and warmest personal greetings, as well as the thanks and support of countless brethren of the Russian Brotherhood Organization (RBO) for your timeless dedication and efforts in support of our common heritage and our beloved Orthodox faith. I and many, many friends and associates look forward every month to the latest articles, news and recipes.

George H. Mihaly, Jr.
President: R.B.O.

PRESS FUND

We are so grateful to all who have helped us to continue publishing for these last 50 years. Your support has been an uplift when the going has been tough. It has been just what was needed so many times for 50 years. Spasebo/Thank you.

This month we heard from Stephen and Lillian Smarsh, Wilma Kopchik, Justine DiPalo, John Beily, Anonymous (3), Anne Stramiello, Fr. Daniel Donovan, John and Geri Petronka - Easter Contribution, Mildred Skubanicz, Helen Ashuck, Michael Spirnak, Edward Rodusky, Irene Allen, Andrew Hvizd, Anna Dorozynski, Mary Evanchick, John and Rose Minarick, Margaret Petty, Fr. Anthony and Dr. Sophronia Tomaras, Helen Allen, Ted and Jennie Cramer, George and Eileen Chwan, Ethel Watlock, Russian Orthodox Brotherhood (RBO).

Andrew Fedetz on our 50th. Olga Krasofsky prayers for health. Stella Sholomicky for health of Daria Sholomicky. Mary Kochmaruk for health and quick recovery for Kevin. Fr. and Matushka Stroyen best wishes on 50th wedding anniversary of Fr. and Matushka Michael Romanchak, Fr. and Matushka Vladimir Lecko, Stephen and Julia Wrabel. Stephen Holochuck in memory of mother Stella Ladizki Holochuck, and grandmother Mary Mucha Ladizki. George Fritch in memory of his wife Carolyn and other family members. Olga Kuzmick in memory of parents Dimitri and Anastasia Kuzmich and Uncle Jon Chura. Mary Romanchak in memory and prayers for husband John. Anna Polehinke in memory of parents Stephen and Anna Datz and family. Sophia and Eli McKay prayers for her sister Stella Veneri and Julia Gereg, who died on the same day. Mother in memory of infant daughter Marice. Fr. Stroyen in memory of newly-departed classmate Fr. Dimitry Kudrikoff and Fr. Nicholas Fedorchak.

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Maria,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot shitko OK. Me feeluyem dobree. Me neh dostalee flu. Noh shitkee nashee neighboree bullee hvoree.

Yah vam budoo pesatee about takee situation zeh happened last week. Yah peeshla doh krayankee, ohnah me calloyalah nah telephone ee me poveelah zhe takee dobreeh sale nah chickens in supermarket cross town. Yah yeh poveela zhe yah yeh dam nah gas boh me husband lubee chickens, ee nam uzhe treba some datee doh freezeera.

Me peeshlee do supermarket ee took nash limit 5 chickens per customer. Me put them in the car ee peeshlee doing more shopping in the mall. After half hour me poshleh nasat doh supermarket ee kupelee 5 more chickens per customer limit. We made sure zhe me went to different checker. Again me put the kurkee doh caree. Again, half hour in mall, again doh supermarket, again druhee checker. Again we bought nash 5 chicken per customer, limit.

Ahah, malee 15 chickens each. Krayanka left me off at me house. Me staree, was home. Ohn takee excited. "Guess, what Hanya, I found a sale on chickens, so I bought enough to fill the freezer."

Yah, dumam "What I gottado?" Tyotya Maria, do you know how many chickenee me kupelee? Yah neh znam, yak vam poveesteh. What happened.

Too many chickens.
Budteh zdrove,
Hanya

SOBORNOST

Ever since the end of the first century, the episcopal system has been accepted unanimously by the Church and Orthodox scholars contend this ecclesiological foundation of its apostolic origin. The Eucharistic gathering never had more than one president.

Every Christian community (every parish in today's terminology) was originally presided over by a bishop, elected by that community and consecrated by the bishops of neighboring communities. The bishop, therefore, never exercised his authority upon the Church, but always within the Church. Apostolic succession did not itself belong to the bishop as an individual, but was transmitted to him by the apostolic church – to announce the faith of the apostles in that particular community which had elected him. We can see then that the bishop is not only a symbol of Christ; through him the presence of the Head is just as real as the presence of the Body is real in the community. Thus, we read Ignatius of Antioch writing about 100 A.D.: "I beseech you, seek to do all things in divine harmony, under the presidency of the bishop who has the place of God among you."

Fr. Michael Dahulich, Ph.D.
Dean: St. Tikhon Seminary

GRANDMOTHERS – THEN AND NOW

On a recent visit to the local mall, I sat in the food court and observed the people around me. Nearby were grandparents with their grandchildren. The adults doted on the little ones, and it was obvious that everyone was having an enjoyable time. My attention was drawn to the grandmother with her fashionable jogging outfit and hair and makeup just so. I, then, found myself smiling as I thought of Baba.

How things have changed! First of all, Baba's idea of a "Happy Meal" with her grandchildren would have been anything she, herself, cooked – at home. She bought her groceries at a small, neighborhood market where the grocer spoke to her in her own language and knew her by name. Armed with her striped canvas bag and orange "book," she carefully selected fresh produce and meats for her table. After all, this was for her family.

Baba never wore makeup or slacks, and her uncut hair was made into a neat bun. Simple, but nice, print dresses in blue or green were considered appropriate for church, going to the doctor, or visiting. And she always wore a hat or babushka to church. Always.

Sundays and holy days were very important to Baba. After Divine Liturgy, lunch was eaten and the rest of the day was quietly spent. If someone she knew was in the hospital or nursing home, this was her time for visiting them.

Baba didn't spend winters in Florida or go on trips to the Caribbean. The only "cruise" Baba took was when she was just eighteen. On that voyage, she spent two weeks crossing the Atlantic Ocean in February. There were infrequent trips to visit relatives, but she was content with the company of her immediate family and the comfort of her own home.

She didn't drive. (In fact, none of my grandparents did.) Walking, streetcars, and buses were the modes used to reach one's destination. Later, children, then grandchildren, were happy to provide any transportation.

Baba's career was her family and home. The only time she worked outside of the home was during the Depression, when work was scarce for Gedo. Then, she worked on a farm from dawn until dusk for $1 a day. With this job, she helped to provide income for her family and made it possible for her oldest daughter to graduate high school.

Baba greatly enjoyed cooking, baking, and gardening, but more than anything else, Baba loved her family. Just ask her grandchildren about the cookie jar that was always kept filled with their favorite treats and the large, family dinners that were lovingly prepared. To her, these were labors of love. Urging everyone to eat more, Baba's eyes twinkled at the sight of her family full and happy.

As I watched the family in the food court finish their meal and continue on their afternoon outing, I reflected on grandmothers then and now. Granted, things have changed over the years, but some things, the really important things have not – like the love of a grandmother for her grandchildren.

•WHEN YOU AND YOUR CHILD COME TO CHURCH

This is an excellent time to teach your child many of the important facts and beliefs about our Faith.

There are two days which are preliminary to the FAST of Holy Week. On Saturday we commemorate the Raising of Lazarus from the dead and it is justly called **LAZARUS SATURDAY.**

Sunday is **PALM SUNDAY**. It manifests Jesus Christ's joyful and solemn entrance into Jerusalem. Near the end of Matins we will bless Palms and willows for distribution to all in our congregation. The palms and willows are for all to take to our homes as a special blessing of this day. They are preserved and often kept behind our prayer Icons in our special prayer area.

Christ's entrance into Jerusalem was to comfort the disciples and to demonstrate His fulfilling of prophecy. Zacharius said, "The king will come riding upon an ass, on the colt of an ass." (Zach9:9) He will not come as a King on a horse nor in a chariot, but as a humble and meek man. What king ever entered Jerusalem thus? None save this One.

Encourage your children to understand that we join with those who welcome Christ into the Jerusalem of our hearts. We rejoice in His entrance so that we may become united with Him.

Palm Sunday Evening is the beginning of Holy Week and the entrance to our own journey to Calvary and our own Resurrection.

•Your Faith can best be communicated to your children by you.

Fr. Elias Mitchell

THE ICON CORNER

Every Orthodox home has an Icon Corner, which is sometimes referred to as the Beautiful Corner. It should be in the east corner of the main room, if possible. Otherwise, it is usually in the corner which can be seen when someone first enters the home. When entering the home, the icon corner is faced and a sign of the cross is made.

Hanging in the corner are icons of Christ and the Mother of God. These are usually the icons which were at the marriage service. Also found here are icons of the saints of the family members and blessed is the family which has an heirloom icon which has been handed down in the family and has had prayers of joy and sorrows prayed before it. Other icons can also be found here.

The corner often contains a lectern, a shelf or a small table. On these can be placed the prayer books, Bible, a small incense burner, a vial of Holy Water, and blessed items like flowers, willows, etc. Sometimes, the icons are adorned or the shelf or table are adorned with beautifully embroidered cloths. These covers are also handed down in families.

There is either a hanging lamp or votive lamp which is lighted when the family gathers for their daily prayers. Some families also have a perpetual light, which, for safety sake, is a small bulb placed into a red votive glass.

It was at the Icon Corner that many of the older generation learned their daily prayers. They learned them by hearing them repeated over and over again, each day, by the father of the family.

SAINTS

In the Book of Revelation, mention is made of various types of saints: the martyrs for the Word of God (6:9), the virgins (14:4), all those who died in the Lord and whose good works follow them (14:13), the martyrs for Jesus (17:6), and the prophets and Apostles (18:20).

The word martyrs is derived from the Greek term martyrs, meaning "witness." It was applied to early Christians, like Stephen, who bore witness to their faith by giving their lives. In the church of the second century, accounts of Christian martyrs became a powerful example. As the church faced deadly persecution, the martyrs helped transform the horror and degradation of the present into hope for triumph in the future. "The blood of the martyrs," observed Tertullian, "is the seed of the church."

During the persecutions in the Roman Empire, each community commemorated only its local martyrs. Their names and the dates of their execution were carefully recorded, and each church kept the official list of its heroes. In larger places, Christian notaries were appointed for the various districts of the city. It was their task to observe and record all cases of executions of Christians in their particular districts. These lists were not only read at divine services, but were often engraved on tablets of marble and set up as public notice for the faithful to remind them to honor and venerate their local saints.

However, with the increasing number and scope of persecutions, many martyrs remained unlisted, neither could all anniversaries be kept within a community. For this reason only the outstanding few received an established annual feast of memorial services. The others shared one great feast in common, to give the honor and recognition to their memory every year. This was instituted in the 5th century.

In the third century, persons who did not reach the point of executions but died a natural death after having suffered persecution for the sake of Christ, like St. Nicholas, who had been in prison for many years but was finally released in 312 at the end of the persecutions, began to be listed. These saints were added as "confessors."

The death date of a martyr is observed as their "birthday." As it expresses the truth that any Christian who remained loyal to the Lord unto the death in martyrdom is truly born into eternal glory at the hour of their execution. It is a day entered on the calendar.

During the proskomodia, the preparation of the gifts for the Divine Liturgy, nine particles are taken from the third prosphora (altar bread) to honor the nine ranks of saints.

The calendar of saints is continually being added to. Many saints still go unlisted. But all are remembered in the church.

WINTER'S GRACE

I looked upon my soul one day,
To find it had grown
With thorns and thistles everywhere –
The seeds neglect had sown.

The years had passed while I had cared
For things of lesser worth;
The things of heaven I let go
While minding things of earth.

To Christ I turned with bitter tears,
And cried, "O Lord, forgive!
I haven't much time left for Thee,
Not many years to live."

The wasted years forever gone,
The days I can't recall;
If I could live those days again,
I'd make Him Lord of all.

FUNDS

<u>POSTAGE</u> - Anonymous (2), Chris Ferlitch, Anna Polehinke, Wilma Kopchik, Gregory Speros, Anne Stramiello, Mrs. L. R. Stehnach, Ruth Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hudock, Mary Fortner, Betty Kochmaruk, Mary Gresko, PRDC Alex Krafchak, Annie Welsh, Julia Yurkowski, Charles and Katherine Dekilas, Helen Fitio, Sophia McKay.

<u>ALASKA</u> - Paul and Marion Stenko in memory of loved ones, Anonymous, Olga Cleaver in memory of parents Anna and Nestor Decowsky, Eva Melnyk, Tom Swift, Mary Dranchak.

<u>MISSION</u> - Mary Gresko, Olga Peck, Dr. Sophronia Tomaras.

<u>BOTH ALASKA AND MISSION</u> - Anonymous (2), Fr. Daniel Donovan, Laura Dlholucky in memory of loving dedo Michael Bobec, Margaret Petty, Anna Polehinke, Ethel Watlock.

Whatever

We do not know the reason why we or others are not healed or continue to suffer. When we can accept our situations by faith and look to God, we begin to appreciate the blessings that God is continually working in our lives. **Keep praying for healing** - you never know what God might do.

During the first three days of Holy Week, the Church prescribes that the entire Four Gospels are read up to the chapters where the passion of Christ is discussed.

We receive the willows or palms on Palm Sunday from the hands of the priest or bishop. We do not just take them. By accepting the blessed branch **we proclaim** our primary allegiance to Jesus Christ as King.

On the 5th Thursday of Great Lent, during the Presanctified Liturgy, we pray: "By being nailed to the Cross and pierced with a lance, O Lord, You tore up the decree written against Adam. Destroy my bonds also, O Word, that I may offer You a sacrifice of praise in joy and in faith in this acceptable time of the Fast, which You have revealed for the salvation of all."

We bow and make the sign of the Cross upon entering the Church even if no service is being held at the time, in this way recognizing the presence of the divine.

Elder Philotheos said: "Repent whenever you fall into either great or minor sins and go to confession. You will then be saved and be granted the heavenly goods...

It is said that April Fool was first applied to persons who did not want to change from April 1 to January 1 as the beginning of the New Year. This was in 1584.

Those who seek His Face will see His hands.

Chrism is made once a year on Holy Thursday. It is made of a tincture of herbs and spices steeped in olive oil-based on a recipe in Exodus 30:23-26. It is distributed to individual priests to be used in the sacrament of chrismation and in the consecration of a church. It is provided in small 1 oz. vials.

Some of the reasons why we use willows on Palm Sunday are that the willow tree has **medicinal properties** (aspirin for one) and it was considered a holy tree. Also it is one of the first to show signs of life in the Spring.



EDITORS' NOTES

With this issue we complete fifty years of publishing. This means 10 books completed and over 2 million copies sent throughout the world. Our aim was to furnish information on the Orthodox religion and the traditions which help to enrich our lives. At the time we started we had been married only six years. Matushka was working as a Public Health nurse, Father was working hard to complete his work for a degree from Rutgers University. Fitting this in with a busy parish life at St. John's Parish in Rahway, N.J., which included daily services, the Sunday School of over 120 students, with little educational material available, meant it had to be prepared by your editors. In retrospect we wonder how we did it all. But as the article "Life as an Offering" makes clear, we had promised the Lord to try to teach about Him and we were bound to that promise.

Very shortly, Father left for the Air Force, and the necessary reference books and typewriter had their own suitcase for 25 years, which was counted against the poundage we were allowed to take with us in our travels around the world.

In those first 25 years, Fr. Joseph Pishtey and Mr. Alexander Besmertny helped us by furnishing informational news. Metropolitan Leonty was always sending us articles, donations and notes of encouragement. Memory Eternal.

Soon after the Metropolia received its autocephely in 1970, we were informed that the OCA now had an English language paper and our efforts should cease. We decided to continue while we did research into the availability of other English language papers. We were happy to see that there were others, but the style and content of our paper was unique and not being duplicated. Meanwhile, our work with Orthodox of various ethnic and jurisdictional backgrounds had expanded the scope of our chronology and other features. It was pointing us toward a transjurisdictional path. There may not be unity among Orthodox in this country but we have been trying to bring understanding and knowledge of various traditions and cultures.

We are now retired. Since employment does not demand our time, we have expanded our involvement in publishing the paper. We have time for more research and have increased the size. We have more time for correspondence and phone calls and our "work has expanded to fill our time."

We are grateful to all who have encouraged us, have upheld us, have supported us, and have prayed for us. We made FIFTY! Slava Bohu.

The Strogens

INSTANT PRAYER

We know that we want everything in a hurry. To accommodate our instant lifestyle, we have instant coffee, instant tea and microwaveable dinners ready to be served at an instant's notice.

While we enjoy the new products, long before these immediate products instant conveniences were even imagined, St. Paul recommended being instant in prayer as a vital necessity.

In St. Paul's phrase in Romans 12:12 "continuing instant in prayer, the word instant has an earlier meaning of "pressing" or "urgent" rather than its present meaning of "speedy."

However, an even earlier meaning as used in Biblical times was "to stand firm." In this phrase, St. Paul is urging us to continue to stand firm or steadfast in prayer. In fact, some of the newer Bible translations use these words instead of instant.

All of us, in moments of emergency or desperation have sent up instant prayers for help. There is nothing wrong in this. It is right to cherish the help that our emergency prayers might bring, but it is also right to ponder St. Paul's emphasis on continuing "instant" or firm in prayer.

Before we could have instant food, other people had to prepare it. They spend extra time and work in preparing the raw materials into the finished form so that the user may spend less time.

However, as far as "continuing in instant prayer" only we can do it. Others may also pray for the same thing but the task is ours. Read all of Romans 12:6-14 which will be read on July 15 in the church in addition to a reading from Galatians for those on the new calendar. This reading from Romans is instructional as it teaches us that people have a variety of gifts that are not all the same.



There are as many recipes for potato pancakes as there are cooks. The following recipe makes good crisp cakes. I do not recommend using the blender to grate the potatoes because they get too fine. The potatoes have to be a little coarse.

POTATO PANCAKES

3 eggs, separated
4 cups grated potatoes, drained
6 Tbls. grated onion
3 Tbls. fine bread crumbs or flour
dash cayenne pepper
salt and pepper
oil for frying
sour cream

Beat together the egg yolks, potatoes, onion, bread crumbs, cayenne, salt and pepper. Add more bread crumbs or flour if needed. In a separate bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff. Fold into potato mixture. Heat about 1/2 inch oil in skillet. Use heaping teaspoon of batter or as much as needed to make the size pancake desired. Flip the pancake when edges are golden brown. Serve with sour cream, tomato machanka/dip or applesauce.

For machanka: In heavy skillet heat 4 Tbls. oil, add 4 Tbls. flour. Stir over medium heat until medium brown. Add 1 (16 oz.) can tomatoes (mashed). Stir and cook until thick. Add some water if too thick. You may add finely chopped onions while browning flour.

* * * * * *

Until he has found a permanent place in God, the Christian is bound to feel more or less lonely – out of place – in the world. It isn't wrong for man to try to find in people and places a temporary home. In fact, it is what he is meant to do. But he must realize that it is temporary, that's all, and that people aren't God… It will be time enough later on to settle down and live happily ever afterwards.

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Lord, I believe, help my belief!

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FROM E-MAIL

Written by a teen in Arizona.

"Now I sit me down in school, where praying is against the rule. For this great nation under God, finds mention of Him very odd. The scripture now the class recites, even though it violates the Bill of Rights.

Any time my head I bow, becomes a federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green. That's not offense, it's a freedom theme.

The law is specific, the law is precise. Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall might offend someone with no faith at all.

In silence alone we must meditate. God's name is prohibited by the state.

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks and pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.

They've outlawed guns but first the Bible, to quote the good book, 'makes me liable.'

It's inappropriate to teach right from wrong. We're taught that such judgments do not belong.

But we can get condoms and birth control, study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.

But the Ten Commandments are not allowed. No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess. When chaos reigns, the school's a mess.

So Lord this silent plea I make, should I be shot, my soul please take."

* * * * * *

Procrastination is not only the thief of time; it is also the grave of opportunity.

Home Bible Reading Schedule

APRIL 2002

1	Proverbs 8:1-21	16	Proverbs 15:7-19
2	Proverbs 8:32-9:11	17	Proverbs 15:20-16:9
3	Proverbs 9:12-18	18	Proverbs 16:17-17-17
4	Proverbs 10:1-22	19	Proverbs 17:17-18:5
5	Proverbs 10:31-11:12	20	Mark 8:27-31
6	Mark 2:14-17	21	Mark 10:32-45
7	**Mark 8:34-9:1**	22	Proverbs 19:16-25
8	Proverbs 11:19-12:6	**23**	**John 15:17-16:2**
9	Proverbs 12:8-22	24	Proverbs 21:23-22:4
10	Proverbs 12:23-13:9	25	Proverbs 23:15-24
11	Proverbs 13:19-14:6	26	Proverbs 31:8-31
12	Proverbs 14:15-26	27	John 11:1-45
13	Mark 7:31-37	**28**	**John 12:1-18**
14	**Mark 9:17**	29	Matt 24:3-35
15	Proverbs 1 15:4	30	Matt 24:36-26:2

[illegible] STUDY

For much [illegible] this month, the Bible Readings consist of selections from the Book of Proverbs. This Book is a collection of moral and religious maxims which contain instructions for right living in the sight of God. Often a sharp contrast is brought between wisdom and folly, righteousness and sin.

Solomon is credited with writing a large part of the Book. According to the Prologue, which can be found in chapter 1:1-7, not only is he identified as the author but the theme and purpose for writing the Book is given. The reason for writing was to give moral instruction, especially to young people. Unfortunately, Solomon was a guidepost rather than an example. In his later years, his zeal for God diminished influenced by his pagan wives who turned him away from worshipping God even in the temple which he had constructed. As we can read in 1 Kings 1-11, under his leadership, Israel rose to great high heights in size and glory. Solomon had a temple constructed which was unsurpassed in splendor and this brought him worldwide fame and respect.

His prayer to God at the dedication of the temple as recorded in 1 Kings 8:22-53 should be read. The rest of the chapter on how the occasion was celebrated for seven days is interesting.

Solomon is also credited with writing Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon as well as the Wisdom of Solomon, which can be found in the Apocrypha.

The way he ended his life is a warning to all of us. Even one so favored and wise can stumble and lose his way. **We must be ever vigilant.**

HOW MANY BODIES OF WATER WERE PARTED

Two. There was the Red Sea which God parted with a "strong east wind" (exodus 14:21). And there was the River Jordan which He parted twice.

The first time when the children of Israel crossed the Jordan into the promised land of Canaan. God caused the river to dry up (Joshua 4:29) so "that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever." A stone altar stood at this spot for many years to mark the site of the crossing.

The second time was when the prophets Elijah and Elisha needed to get to the other side (2 Kings 2:8). Elijah struck the water with his mantle which he had rolled up and caused the waters to divide "this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground."